

Director (QAD)

# HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

Government of Pakistan  
H-9, Islamabad, Phone: (051) 90801104  
Email: [muahmed@hec.gov.pk](mailto:muahmed@hec.gov.pk)

No. 1-AD/QA/HEC/NOC (Affiliated Colleges)/2025/64  
Dated: October 14, 2025

Subject: **Graduate-Level Programs in R&D Organizations & PGMIs established by the Government**

Respected Vice Chancellor/Rector,

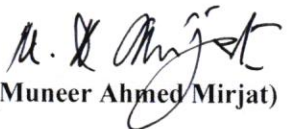
In continuation to the notification of even number date 13<sup>th</sup> April 2016 regarding the NOC requirement for starting MS/MPhil/PhD or equivalent programs in Affiliated Colleges.

2. To promote research in the HEIs with the help of a well-equipped R&D sector, it is hereby notified that graduate-level programs (level 7 & 8) may be offered at such Govt R&D organizations and Postgraduate Medical Institutes (PGMIs) in collaboration with HEC-recognized Public Sector universities/Degree Awarding Institutes (DAIs), subject to the following conditions:

- i. The Govt. R&D organizations and PGMIs must have functional collaborative arrangements with an HEC-recognized public sector university and obtain a program NOC from HEC before initiating the graduate program.
- ii. Compliance with the HEC Graduate Education Policy (GEP) shall be mandatory, including adherence to faculty eligibility criteria, coursework structure, and supervision requirements.
- iii. Mandatory resources must be available, such as active research projects, fully equipped laboratories/clinics, a library with relevant books and e-resources, biosafety measures, an Institutional Review Board/Ethics Review Board, a plagiarism prevention system, and functional sub-offices of ORIC and QEC.
- iv. The Graduate program must comply with PSG-2023 standards through both internal and external quality assurance processes (PREE/RIPE), ensuring curriculum relevance, defined learning outcomes, and continuous improvement.
- v. Periodic monitoring shall be conducted through self-assessment and PREE to ensure sustained quality and compliance.

3. Furthermore, post-facto approval may also be considered if such R&D organizations and PGMIs offered graduate degrees before this notification. In that case, a complete dossier is to be submitted to the QA division, HEC, including necessary approvals from the statutory bodies of the concerned University.

4. This is issued with the approval of the competent authority.

  
(Muneer Ahmed Mirjat)

**The Vice Chancellor/Rector**

All Public Sector Universities in Pakistan

**Copy for information to:**

- PS to Chairman, Higher Education Commission, Islamabad
- PS to Executive Director, Higher Education Commission, Islamabad
- Office Copy



# HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

H-9, ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN, Website: <http://www.hec.gov.pk>

**Dr. Shaista Sohail**

Executive Director

QAD/NOC/AffiliatedCollege/HEC/2023/302

Dated: January 4, 2023

**Subject: Affiliated colleges/Institutions of the universities are not allowed to offer MS/MPhil/Ph.D. or equivalent Programs (level-7 & 8 qualifications per NQF)**

Respected Sir/Madam, السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

This is in continuation of the Higher Education Commission's Letter No. 1-AD/QA/HEC/NOC (Affiliated Colleges)/2016/122 dated; April 13, 2016, which states that universities are not allowed to launch/offer admissions in MS/MPhil or equivalent programs in their affiliated institutions/colleges until and unless HEC approval is obtained. (Copy enclosed). Parent alerts in this regard have also been published in the newspapers.

1. Despite clear instructions from the Higher Education Commission, some universities have advertised admissions in the MS/MPhil or equivalent programmes in affiliated colleges. This violates the HEC instructions, and the university's action has compromised the quality of education. The instructions were issued to the affiliating universities offering sub-standard programs in the affiliated institutions without meeting the minimum standards in terms of relevant qualified permanent/regular PhD Faculty, Research Supervision experience, library and Laboratory facilities, access to the digital library, etc.
2. These violations of the affiliating universities were reported to the HEC Commission on September 07, 2022, for appropriate decision. The HEC Commission has endorsed the earlier decision of HEC and reiterated that the Affiliated Institutions/Colleges of the universities should not be allowed to offer level-7 & 8 i.e., MS/MPhil/PhD or equivalent qualifications.
3. Non-compliance of the Commission policies/guidelines may lead to suspension of the Performance Grant (15%) to such Institutions and their eligibility for additional incentives announced from time to time.
4. Foregoing in view, it is reiterated that all the affiliating universities/higher education institutions are called upon to completely comply with the policies/guidelines/quality standards of the 'Commission' in letter & spirit and refrain from actions that may erode the quality of learning, and good governance.

I am sure, with your continued support, together we can continue to build a better and effective higher education sector.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Dr Shaista Sohail)

## **Distribution**

All Vice-Chancellors/Rectors/Head of Public Sector Universities & DAIs

**Copy to:**

- The Principal Secretary to Chancellor of Public Sector Universities & DAIs
- The Secretary, Federal Education and Professional Training Islamabad
- The Secretary to Sindh Education and Literacy Department, Government of Sindh
- The Secretary of Higher Education Department, Government of Punjab
- The Secretary Higher Education, Archives and Library Department, KPK Peshawar
- The Secretary, Higher Education Department, Government of Balochistan
- The Secretary, Education Department Gilgit Baltistan
- The Secretary of Education, Department of Education Government of AJK
- The Heads/Incharge of all Divisions/Sections/Regional Centers of the HEC
- ES to Chairman, Higher Education Commission, Islamabad
- ES to the Executive Director, Higher Education Commission, Islamabad
- APS to Advisor (QAD, QAA & GE) Higher Education Commission, Islamabad
- Office Copy



# **HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION**

H-9, Islamabad (Pakistan), Phone: (051) 90802750 Fax: (051) 90802753  
Email: ismaeel@hec.gov.pk

**Muhammad Ismail**

Consultant (Quality Assurance Division)

No. 1-AD/QA/HEC/NOC (Affiliated Colleges)/2016/1122

Dated: April 13, 2016

**Subject: NOC Requirement for Starting MS/MPhil/PhD or Equivalent Programs in Affiliated Colleges**

My Dear Vice-Chancellor/Rector/President

Assalam-o-Alaikum!

I am forwarding the HEC letter no.1-AD/QA/HEC/ (Affiliated Colleges)/2016/924 dated March 7, 2016 regarding the launch of MS/MPhil/PhD or Equivalent Programs in Affiliated Institutions of Higher Education.

The public sector universities which have affiliated some colleges are requested to keep the contents of this letter in their sight to avoid any violation in this regard.

With kind regard,

*Muhammad Ismail*

(Muhammad Ismail)

**The Vice-Chancellor/Rector/President**

All Public Sector Universities of Pakistan

**Copy for Information.**

- The ES to Chairman, HEC Islamabad
- The ES to Executive Director, HEC Islamabad
- The PS to Director General (A&A), HEC Islamabad
- The PS to Director General (QAA), HEC Islamabad



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H-9, Islamabad (Pakistan), Phone: (051) 90802750 Fax: (051) 90802753  
Email: ismaeel@hec.gov.pk

**Muhammad Ismail**  
Consultant (Quality Assurance Division)

No. 1-AD/QA/HEC/ (Affiliated Colleges)/2016/924  
Dated: March 7, 2016


Subject: **NOCs for Starting MS/MPhil or Equivalent Programs in Affiliated Colleges**

Dear Sir/Madam,

Reference is made to earlier correspondence on the subject issue, I write to apprise that Higher Education Commission has received requests from many affiliated colleges from across the country regarding the launch of MS/MPhil or Equivalent programs. As a practice the matter was placed before the National Quality Assurance Committee (NQAC) during its 21<sup>st</sup> meeting held on January 13, 2016 for getting its opinion to issue the subject NOC or otherwise. The committee deliberated at length on the subject matter, however, could not reach at a final decision. Therefore, the subject item will be presented again in the forthcoming meeting of NQAC.

The recommendations of the NQAC will be placed in the meeting of Higher Education Commission for the final decision. Aforesaid in view, until and unless approval is accorded to Affiliated Colleges for launch of MS/MPhil or equivalent programs, the Colleges/Institutes are advised not to advertise the admissions.

With kind regard,

  
(Muhammad Ismail)

**Copy for Information.**

- The Chairman, HEC Islamabad
- The Executive Director, HEC Islamabad
- The Registrar, University of Sargodha, Sargodha
- Office copy